Katie Matarazzo Keystone Lesson Reflection

I taught the class a fourth grade math lesson on place value. I believe that it was an effective lesson because the students were participating in answering questions and seemed to really grasp the concept while completing the group and individual activity. Since the activity involved using M&M’s I feel that the students enjoyed it more with the incentive to eat them afterwards. Also at the end of the lesson to assess what the students had learned I had them play an online game on place value and the first student to complete the 9 questions and get them all correct won a prize of skittles.

While planning this lesson I incorporated some UDL solutions to help all the learners in my classroom. I used a power point which is great for visual learners because it enlarged the text and allowed the entire class to follow along. I also included a fun video that sang a song of the order of the place values. This was great for visual learners but also auditory learners. For kinesthetic learners I had them participate in an activity using M&M’s where they place the candy in the right place value to help them experience the lesson hands on. This activity was a group activity where the students worked with one or two classmates to collaborate their ideas. In order to create an effective learning experience I also incorporated technology into the lesson. Aside from the power point presentation I had the students type a website in the browser and play an online game to help better their understanding on place value.

The teaching strategies I felt were most effective were the power point presentation and the online activity. The power point was helpful because it quickly but thoroughly taught the students what the place values were. The online game was successful because it was a quick review of the lesson, it involved the use of technology and it was fun because it was a race for a prize. The strategies I would change would be to maybe give the students different types of activities to complete in their groups because working together is a great way of learning. Also I would have liked to have the students come up to the whiteboard or smart board to write some of their answers on the board rather than just say the answers aloud.

Integrating technology into the classroom is very important for a successful, diverse lesson. I believe the important elements for doing so are using technology for visual and auditory learners. An overhead projector, power point presentation and computers are great tools for students to use during a lesson and become familiar with using. Smart boards are also great for teaching because it works with the simple touch of a finger, which is easy and fun for students and teachers. I also believe that working with computers is very useful because it saves time and with an activity allows the students to gain feedback on their work faster. Technology helps all different types of learners and is becoming more and more useful in everyday life.